



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui

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BUSH TAX CUT WILL DRAIN SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Robert Matsui (D-CA) today stood alongside fellow Democratic Members of Congress and the President of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare to criticize Republican tax cuts that will squander the Social Security surplus. At today's event, the President and CEO of the Committee, former Congresswomen Barbara Kennelly, delivered signed petitions from over 450,000 members of the Committee urging Members of Congress to reject President Bush's tax plan.

"The priorities of the President and Congressional Republicans are outrageous. The cost of the Bush tax cut will be \$14 trillion over 75 years, while the unfunded liability in Social Security is \$3.8 trillion over the same time period. In other words, the President's tax cut will cost nearly 4 times what it will cost to shore up Social Security for the Baby Boomers and future generations. This is about choices. The President has made his -- tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans above everything else -- and it's the wrong choice," said Matsui.

According to Citizens for Tax Justice, 75 percent of elderly Americans would get no tax relief under the President's proposal to eliminate taxes on dividends. The non-partisan Brookings Institution has calculated that seniors who earn over \$1 million a year can expect \$51,908 in tax cuts under the Bush proposal, while seniors who earn between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a year will get a tax cut of \$89. In 2000, the median elderly household income was \$24,549.

"This is a defining moment in American History. The choice we make today -- between tax cuts for a few of the wealthiest and meeting our obligations to current and future Social Security beneficiaries -- will dictate the fiscal direction of this country for generations," added Matsui.

Congressman Matsui is the Ranking Democratic Member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

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